

DETAILED ACTION

Interview Summary

1. This interview occurred over 10DEC2009, 15DEC2009, and 16DEC2009. Substance of the interviews describing the general nature of what was discussed is as follows:

➤ On 10DEC2009: Discussed proposed amendments to place the Application in condition for allowance. Applicant was advised to make the following amendments to place the application in condition for allowance: move the features of claims 2 and 5 into the independent claims 1, 11, 19, and 27 and cancel claims 2 and 5 as well as any claims corresponding to claims 2 and 5 that depend on claims 11, 19, and 27. Applicant's representative agreed to present the proposed claim amendments to the Applicant for approval.

➤ On 15DEC2009: Discussed proposed amendments after Applicants representative had discussed them with Applicant. Claim 2 was to be canceled and the features not already recited into claim 1 (i.e. a global information network) was to be inserted into claim 1, line 12, after "a server" with the word "via" before "network being deleted. Claim 5 was to be canceled and inserted at the end of the claim 1 after "memory device", the language to be insert would read "wherein, the data/memory port is a memory storage interface". The proposed amendments were to be inserted in the appropriate places throughout the independent claims and the corresponding depended claims canceled as previously discussed, the Examiner agreed pending approval of a SPE.

➤ On 16DEC2009: Having discussed the above with a SPE and getting approval the Examiner advised Applicant that the claim terminology "memory storage interface" lacked antecedent basis in the specification. The Examiner suggested inserting --a memory storage interface, such

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as a-- before "Flash card" in paragraph [0015], line 4, in order to provide proper antecedent basis. Applicant found this acceptable and indicated that a Proposed Examiner's Amendment including the above discussed amendments would be forthcoming.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Graciela Cowger (42444) on 16DEC2009.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0015] on page 3 as follows:

[0015] The invention is embodied in a non-mobile thin client coupled to a home network. These devices include but not limited to: DVDs, Set Top Boxes (STB), TVs, and Audio players. According to the invention a thin client has a network port and a data/memory port. The data/memory port includes a memory storage interface such as ~~but not limited to~~ Flash card interface (includes but not limited to MMC, SMC, Compact Flash, SD, Sony stick, etc.) or a data communications port interface, such as a USB interface, PCMCIA interface and others.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 11, 16, 19, 24, 27, and 29 have been amended. **Claims 2, 5, 12, 13, 20, 21, and 28** have been canceled by Applicant.

Please amend the claims below as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A thin client device integrated with a consumer electronic device for use in a network comprising:

a signal processor configured to process media content for playback by the consumer electronic device;

a network port configured to couple the thin client device to a server on the network, the server including a hard disk drive;

a data/memory port configured to selectively interface with a memory device holding data comprising media content;

a controller configured to control data transfer between the network port and the data/memory port including, in one mode, fully automatic control enabling transferring substantially unidirectionally data stored at the memory device through the data/memory port to the server through a global information network using ~~via~~ the network port and archiving the data in a hard disk drive of the server responsive to automatically detecting the existence of the memory device through the data/memory port and substantially simultaneously with selective interfacing of the memory device with the data/memory port;

a first internal line configured to couple the data/memory port to the signal processor; and

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a second internal line configured to couple the data/memory port to the network interface;
~~and~~
wherein the controller is configured to enable parallel data transfer of the media content using the first internal line and the second internal line such that the media content is concurrently available to the signal processor for archiving in the hard disk drive of the server and for processing responsive to automatically detecting the existence of the memory device;
wherein the data/memory port includes a memory storage interface.

2. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

automatically detecting a memory device selectively coupled to a data port of a thin client on a global information network, the data port including a memory storage interface;

automatically reading data stored on the memory device, the data including media content;
transferring substantially unidirectionally the data read from the memory device to a server on the global information network through the data port and a network port coupled to the server and archiving the data in a hard disk drive of the server responsive to automatically detecting the existence of the memory device through the data port and initiating transfer of the media content of the memory device substantially simultaneously with selective coupling of the memory device with the data port; and

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concurrently with archiving the data, internally providing the media content to a signal processor integrated with the thin client for processing or playback.

12.-13. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 where transferring the data read from the memory device includes wireless transfer of the data read from the memory device to the server on the global information network.

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19. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by a thin client, cause the thin client to perform a method comprising:

automatically detecting a memory device selectively coupled to a data port of a thin client on a global information network, the data port including a memory storage interface;

automatically reading data stored on the memory device coupled to the data port of the thin client on the global information network, the data including media content;

transferring substantially unidirectionally the data read from the memory device to a server on the global information network through the data port and a network port coupled to the server and archiving the data in a hard disk drive of the server responsive to automatically detecting the existence of the memory device and automatically initiating transfer of the media content of the memory device substantially simultaneously with selective coupling of the memory device with the data port; and

concurrently with archiving the data, internally providing the media content to a signal processor integrated with the thin client for processing or playback.

20.-21. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 19 where transferring the data read from the memory device includes wirelessly transferring the data read from the memory device to the server on the global information network.

27. (Currently Amended) A thin client integrated with a consumer electronic device comprising:

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means for configuring a signal processor to process media content for playback by the consumer electronic device;

means for configuring a network port to couple the thin client to a global information network;

means for detecting a memory device holding data comprising media content and selectively coupled to the thin client by a data port, the data port including a memory storage interface;

means for enabling data transfer between the data port and the network port; and

means for providing control of the data transfer including, in one mode, fully automatic control enabling transferring substantially unidirectionally data stored in the memory device coupled to the data port to the global information network via the network port and archiving the data in a hard disk drive of a server connected to the global information network responsive to automatically detecting the memory device selectively coupled to the thin client substantially simultaneously with selective coupling of the memory device with the data port

means for coupling the data port to the signal processor over a first internal line;

means for coupling the data port to the network interface over a second internal line; and

means for configuring the controller to enable parallel data transfer of the media content to the first internal line and the second internal line such that the media content is concurrently available to the signal processor for archiving in the hard disk drive of the server and for processing or playback responsive to automatically detecting the existence of the memory device.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The thin client of claim 27 comprising:

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means for displaying a menu representing predetermined portions of the media content individually extractable from the data for consumer playback;

means for providing control enabling, in an alternative mode, transferring substantially unidirectionally, based on user input using the menu, selected ones of the predetermined portions of the media content in the memory device through the data port to the global information network via the network port for archiving in the hard disk drive of the server connected to the global information network.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding **claims 1, 11, 19, and 27**, the best prior art found during the examination of the present application,

Billington et al. (US Patent # US 7,103,760 B1) teaches an embedded electronic device connectivity system configured for extending functionality of a peripheral device, including at least two data connections incorporated in the peripheral device, configured to connect the peripheral device to at least two other devices simultaneously, allowing transfer of data between the said at least two devices when so connected; and, a DC power connection incorporated in the peripheral device enabling at least one of the two other devices to be powered from the peripheral device when connected (abstract).

Konetski et al. (US Patent Publication # US 2002/0103880 A1) teaches a computer system including a processor and a memory for retrieving digital media content, storing the digital media content in the memory, and providing the digital media content to a thin media client is provided (abstract).

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Clough et al. (US Patent # US 6,670,982 B2) teaches Improved methods and apparatuses are provided for use with digital cameras. A wireless digital media card is provided for use in a digital camera. The wireless digital media card is configured to replace a conventional digital media card and includes an interface to the digital camera, a transceiver configured to transmit image data over a wireless communication link and logic configured to receive image data from the digital camera via the interface and provide the image data to the transceiver for transmission. The wireless digital media card may also include memory configured to store the image data. A receiving device is configured to store and/or further transfer the image data as needed (abstract).

Weaver, III et al. (US Patent # US 7,069,449 B2) teaches systems and methods are provided for encrypting content sent to a user. The user terminal is assigned a serial number. When content is received by the user terminal, it is encrypted and the serial number is embedded into the encrypted content. The content is decrypted if the serial number embedded in the encrypted content is the serial number associated with the user terminal. Content may also be simultaneously stored and displayed (abstract).

However, Billington et al., Konetski et al., Clough et al., and Weaver, III et al. fail to teach, either alone or in combination, a “controller is configured to enable parallel data transfer of the media content using the first internal line and the second internal line such that the media content is concurrently available to the signal processor for archiving in the hard disk drive of the server and for processing responsive to automatically detecting the existence of the memory device, wherein the data/memory port is a memory storage interface*.”

***Examiner’s note:** memory/data port and memory storage interface were interpreted by the Examiner as being an interface such as a Flash card interface such as MMC, SMC, Compact

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Flash, SD, Sony stick, and the like or a data communications port interface, such as a USB interface, PCMCIA interface and the like.

Claims 3, 4, and 6-10; 14-18; 22-26; and 29-33 are allowed by virtue of their dependency on **claims 1, 11, 19, and 27**, respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL C. MURRAY whose telephone number is 571-270-1773. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 0800-1700 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tonia Dollinger can be reached on (571)-272-4170. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/D. C. M./

Examiner, Art Unit 2443

/George C Neurauter, Jr./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2443